



Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
2011 Annual Retreat Brainstorming Ideas
November 9, 2011

Trish Gallalee called the meeting to order. Cathy Nestoriak served as the facilitator of the goal exercise. Trish decided not to address the ADA workgroup as we will take that up when Nancy Greene convenes the group. Three stations were set up around the room representing each of the goals. The total group was broken up into three equal size groups. Two Commissioners were at each station prepared to speak about the goal for 5 – 7 minutes and the balance of the time (a total of 15 minutes) was spent collecting feedback from the group. After 15 minutes the two speakers moved to the next table until all four groups had been briefed on the issue. Goals will be prioritized for the ones to work on and commissioners are being asked to indicate what issue they choose to work on. This will be discussed at the November 30, 2011 steering committee.

Goal I – Employment

Create model employer experience (award).
Hiring and reasonable accommodations.
Focus on promotions (E) in the workplace (stats)
Educating employers that people with disabilities can do a variety of work.
Internships at all levels.
Incentives for employers to hire people with disabilities
Drafting effective testimony

Student internship program.
Presuming competence.
Disability/Veteran job fair.
Video of positive messages about disability issues.
Schedule A Briefing with Charter Commission

Pushing to educate the public to show positive messages about disabled people.
Mentor program for employers who can share ideas with other employers.
Connecting with USBLM (Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
Demo/info on accessible technology in workplace.
Diversity council - talk to them or create one.
PR marketing.

Goal II. – Housing

1.) Take action to create more accessible housing in new design and renovation

Different types.

Put systems in place to market/educating and make LL(s) aware.

Definition of accessible

- Needs standardization
- Needs communication awareness
- Needs education/marketing

2.) Make more affordable housing.

Influence public and private funded.

Influence housing policies.

Data management

- Home purchasing
- Foreclosure

MPDU and inventories

Where do we have jurisdiction?

Testimony regarding housing accessibility.

County \$/policies re: housing

Examine alternative housing – what stances does the Commission influence housing authority, administrative plans?

Research townhome

Testimony

Residential requirements

CON Plan

user-friendly

homeless system

accessible

Goal III – Transportation

Disability Parking

Parking abuse

Working with County Executive, Commission on Aging, Commission on Health

Reduce abuse [not a five minute run to Starbucks]

Volunteer service to ID issues [avoid confrontations]

New initiative – Public Service Announcement [Press conference 1:00pm Monday, Nov 21st @ Montgomery Mall]

Flashing lights for emergency vehicles for those with hearing loss [at the intersections, emergency vehicles need to pass – you need to stop. Have this in Arizona (Tucson, Phoenix)]

MetroAccess

Affordable [cost has gone up]

Reliability

Number of individuals needing services is going up [increase in veteran population]

Driver training on diversity issues/needs

Types of vehicles

MetroAccess Problems

Not just Montgomery County

Cost is too high

Reliability

$\frac{3}{4}$ miles to a stop [fixed route]

Hire private cars for certain area

Better communication from dispatcher to drivers

Driver training needed

Efficiencies to address financial concerns

Partnering

Contact with rider for pick-up – need protocol for how it is done.

Lack same day – need

Window pick-up [unreliable]

Notification – someone else and when, fear of missing.

Eligible – doctor's note and assessment

Cumbersome system – especially brain injury

MD State (WMATA) – ask Leggett to write letter

Fare schedule

Out source to private company

Fares – no sense – same trip not the same cost

Within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile pick-up

Ride on routes

Investigate business efficiency

Look at impact – number of vets will have on system

Need demographics

Fixed route

For deaf people – don't hear announcements [don't get info]

Red signs give explanations, better communication

Those who can't see don't know where to exit at right stop.